

REPORT
ON
NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE
Week ending the 25th January 1896.

CONTENTS :

	Page.		Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—	
Nil.		Some roads in the Hooghly district ...	84
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		The Goalundo Steamer Service ...	85
(a)—Police—		Difficulty in procuring tickets at the Sealdah Station ...	ib
The Assam Police ...	77	Oppression of third class passengers at the Assensole Station ...	ib
A case of illegal arrest in Comilla ...	ib	The Goalundo-Narainganj steamer service ...	ib
(b)—Working of the Courts—		(h)—General—	
Mr. Taylor, District Judge of Murshidabad ...	ib	Official tours ...	ib
The Lalbagh Munsifi in the Murshidabad district ...	ib	The proposed repeal of the cotton duties ...	86
Syed Nur-ul-Huda, Joint-Magistrate, 24 Parganas... ib		Rabu Panchanan Datta, late Head Assistant in the Office of the Inspector-General of Registration ...	ib
Honorary Magistrates ...	78	Mr. Oldham on the Tripura Prakash newspaper ...	ib
Maulvi Fazal Karim, Sub-divisional Officer of Madaripur ...	ib	The proposed transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam ...	87
The creditors of Mr. Ahsan-ud-din Ahmed ...	79	The proposed transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam ...	ib
The late Head Clerk of the Judge's Court, Nadia ...	80		
Musalman Assessors in the Mymensingh district ...	ib	III.—LEGISLATIVE.	
Jurors addressed in discourteous terms... ib		The Bengal Legislative Council ...	89
The civil court amla ...	ib	The Civil Procedure Code Amendment Bill ...	ib
Mr. Warde-Jones of Govindpur ...	81		
A criminal case not instituted ...	ib	IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
(c)—Jails—		Jeypur Jails ...	90
Nil.		Native States and Political Agents ...	ib
(d)—Education—		V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
The progress of Muhammadan education ...	ib	Nil.	
Education of Hindu girls ...	82	VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
Selection of text-books for University examinations ...	ib	Lord Elgin and the address of the Mahajan Sabha ...	ib
Mufassal practice by the Professors of the Medical College ...	ib	Defeat of the Musalman candidate for the Vice-Chairmanship ...	ib
School-boy morality in Bankipore... ib		Sir Alexander Mackenzie ...	91
Sir Alfred Croft ...	ib	Oppression in connexion with cooly-recruiting in Calcutta ...	ib
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—		Suspension of the House Surgeon of the Calcutta Medical College Hospital ...	ib
Ferry oppression in Rangpur ...	83	The Musalmans urged to national improvement ...	ib
Local Board election in the Palang thana in the Madaripur sub-division of the Faridpur district ...	ib	Zanana Missionaries at Brindaban ...	92
Cause of failure of Local Self-Government in Bengal ...	ib		
(f)—Questions affecting the land—		URIYA PAPERS.	
Nil.		Nil.	
		ASSAM PAPERS.	
		Nil.	

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Tri-monthly.</i>					
1	"Abodh Bodhini" ...	Calcutta	About 677		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Banganivasi" ...	Ditto	" 5,000	18th January 1896.	
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	" 20,000	21st ditto.	
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	.....	17th ditto.	
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	About 4,000		
5	"Kumari Patrika" ...	Ditto	.....	18th ditto.	
6	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	.....	15th ditto.	
7	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	17th ditto.	
8	"Samay" ...	Ditto	" 4,000	18th ditto.	
9	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	" 3,000		
10	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	" 800		
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika" ...	Ditto	" 200	16th, 19th, 20th and 22nd January 1896.	
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika" ...	Ditto	" 200		
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	" 500		
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	" 200		
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	" 1,000	16th to 18th and 22nd January 1896.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	" 800	16th January 1896.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	" 9,000	13th ditto.	
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto	.....		
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Dainik Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	.....	15th and 17th January 1896.	
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Calcutta	.....	15th January 1896.	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide." ...	Ditto	About 400	16th January 1896.	
2	"General and Gauhariasfi" ...	Ditto	" 300		
BENGALI.					
BURDWAN DIVISION.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	" 500	17th January 1896.	
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	" 298		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	350 to 400		
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	500	19th January 1896.	
3	"Darsak" ...	Ditto	.....	19th ditto.	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	754	17th ditto.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna ...	350		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	280	15th January 1896.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore ...	200		
3	"Pratihar" ...	Ditto ...	603	17th ditto.	
URIYA.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Brahma" ...	Cuttack ...	.....		
2	"Indradhanu" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
3	"Shikshabandhu" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
4	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbhunj ...	.....	.....	Only six copies have been issued since the paper was revived in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered.
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	.....	This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190		
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309		
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	412		
HINDI.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000		
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500	26th December 1895.	
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400	3rd January 1896.	
3	"Mehre Monawar" ...	Muzaffarpur ...	150		
BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bagura Darpan" ...	Bogra ...	.....		
2	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	283	15th January 1896.	
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	300	16th ditto.	
HINDI.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	150	.....	It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers, and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	280	13th January 1896.	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Charn Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900		
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	450	19th January 1896.	
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Do. ...	250	18th ditto.	
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ...	500	16th ditto.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500		
	BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
1	"Tripura Prakash" ...	Comilla ...	.....	2nd fortnight of Pous, 1302 (B.S.)	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120		
	BENGALI, <i>Fortnightly.</i>	ASSAM.			
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	Sylhet ...	.....	2nd ditto.	

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

THE *Hitavadi* of the 17th January says that the Assam officials wink at police oppressions in their Province, which do not appear to be less than those which are committed in any other Province in India. At Debrugurh a Musalman boy charged a police officer, named Sewburn, with *zulm*, but the Assistant Commissioner refused to entertain his complaint, on the ground that to entertain such petty complaints against police officers would be to harass them unnecessarily.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 17th, 1896.

The Assam Police. At the same place a constable, named Madhab, was convicted on two charges of *zulm*, but the man still retains his post. A District Superintendent of Police, in Assam, has been himself charged with having detained in *hajut*, on suspicion of theft, a servant of the Station Club, for more than 24 hours without producing him before a Magistrate, and with having compelled the man to follow him for several days wherever he went. The case has not yet been disposed of. It is necessary that the Government of India should give some attention to the affairs of a Province in which police officers of every grade, from the District Superintendent to the constable, have been charged with some offence or other.

2. The *Tripura Prakash*, for the first and second fortnights of *Paus*, says that though the servants of Babu Gopal Chandra Basu, Subordinate Judge of Comilla, were acquitted of the charge of theft by the Deputy Magistrate, no sooner were they discharged than the District Superintendent of Police again ordered their arrest, and required them to furnish bail to the extent of ten rupees per man. It is said that the District Superintendent of Police made this order because he received a telegram from Sylhet, in which a certain tea-planter informed him that the men were his coolies, and had escaped from his garden, and he intended instituting a case against them. But had the District Superintendent of Police power to arrest them before any case was instituted and warrants issued against them? It is hoped Mr. Oldham will enquire into the case and put a stop to such high-handedness.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,
First and Second fortnights of *Paus*, 1892
B.S.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

3. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 15th January is sorry to observe that Mr. Taylor, District Judge of Murshidabad, is now and then upset, and shows temper when hearing evidence. Mr. Taylor is a perfect gentleman, and it is a matter of regret that he should lose his equanimity when he needs it most, namely, in the trial of cases. Recently, in an appeal case, he lost his temper, and called the witness for the complainant in the original case “শয়ার কি বাচ্চা,” son of a pig. This is not the first time that Mr. Taylor lost his temper, and it is to be hoped that such regrettable incidents will not occur again.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Jan. 15th, 1896.

4. The same paper complains that the arrangement requiring the Second Munsif of Berhampur, in addition to his present duties, to take charge of the Lalbagh Munsifi (in the Murshidabad district) for three months, will prove a source of great inconvenience to the Lalbagh people. The litigants of Lalbagh will have to dance attendance at Berhampur, which is at a distance of thirty six or forty miles from the former place. This will put them to great trouble and expense. The Second Munsif of Berhampur does not, in most cases, grant costs; and this is why it is feared that the new arrangements will inconvenience the Lalbagh people, who may have cases to be tried at Berhampur.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI.

5. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 16th January is glad to understand that Syed Nur-ul-Huda, at present Joint-Magistrate, 24-Parganas district, acted very ably as Officiating District Judge of Jessore. He proved one of the best native Judges, and became popular both with Hindus and Musalmans. He possesses judicial independence and dignity in a remarkable degree, and is both willing and able to deal out even-handed justice. It is to be hoped that he will be soon appointed a *pukka* District Judge.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 16th, 1896.

6. The *Samay* of the 17th January complains that few legal practitioners are appointed Honorary Magistrates. It is not known whether this is due to any requirement of

SAMAY,
Jan. 17th, 1896.

policy, but it appears that the authorities are not in favour of appointing as Honorary Magistrates men who are versed in the law. Most of the Honorary Magistrates are totally ignorant of the law, and few of them are graduates of the University, having a taste for the pursuit of knowledge, and therefore willing to study law for the purpose of administering justice properly. The result is frequent miscarriage of justice. To counteract this evil, provision should be made for the examination of Honorary Magistrates in law if it is against Government policy to appoint legal practitioners as Honorary Magistrates.

7. The *Hitavadi* of the 17th January writes as follows:—

HITAVADI,
Jan. 17th, 1896.

Maulvi Fazal Karim, Sub-divisional Officer of Madaripur.

We have shown before (see R. N. P. of 16th November 1895, paragraph 21) how Maulvi Fazal Karim, Sub-divisional Officer of Madaripur, unnecessarily harasses parties to suits and witnesses by holding his court anywhere and everywhere during his tours in the mafassal. We should have remarked that the Maulvi is not the only officer who is guilty of this, and that this failing is common to a large number of Magistrates. The Magistrates, when touring, are attended by servants, and take camps with them, while the poor parties and witnesses have to follow them from place to place, exposed to the inclemencies of the weather and to all the hardships of travelling. Is it not a matter of regret that a thing like this should be possible under the civilised English Government?

About two years ago, the Honourable Shiraj-ul-Islam made this the subject of an interpellation in the Bengal Legislative Council. It was stated by Government in reply that it had never heard that this practice of the Magistrates resulted in any great inconvenience to the people, and promised that the Magistrates would be directed to see that the trial of cases during tours was attended with the least possible inconvenience to the public. More than this was not expected from Sir Charles Elliott's Government. Be that as it may, we should like to know whether the Circular of the 21st April 1894 was communicated to the Sub-divisional Officer of Madaripur. If it was, have not the oppressed people the right to ask why the Maulvi is still harassing parties and witnesses in this way?

Why should an unfortunate witness be compelled to move about from village to village? No shelter is, as a rule, available in the places where the officers encamp, and parties and witnesses are therefore scorched in the sun or drenched in the rain without a roof to shelter them. Government did not certainly introduce the touring system with the object of tormenting people in this way.

We should not have felt it necessary to speak repeatedly of the Maulvi's conduct if he had remained content with harassing people in this way. But we have preferred many serious charges against him. The Maulvi is repeatedly doing things which no officer can do without forfeiting the esteem and confidence of the people.

We have proved that many people show an anxiety to get their cases transferred from the Maulvi's file; that many of his decisions are upset on retrial, and that he has many relatives in Madaripur. Does not Government see that the Maulvi's proceedings have proved offensive to the people in various ways?

We have written much about the Maulvi, but we are not surprised that Government has taken no steps to punish him. We knew that all the offences of that Deputy Magistrate would be winked at under Sir Charles Elliott, specially so long as Mr. Luttmann-Johnson was there to protect him. But Sir Alexander Mackenzie is now the ruler of Bengal. Sir Alexander attempted to check Civilian immorality in Burma, and when Commissioner of the Central Provinces declared that it was not good policy to disregard newspaper criticism. If he makes an enquiry he will know that this Maulvi is a hundred times more guilty than the officers in Burma, who were censured for their immoral conduct. The Maulvi impresses boatmen, gets prisoners in *hajut* or accused persons on bail to do his private work for small remunerations or without any remuneration whatever, takes down depositions of witnesses in any way he likes, and extorts confessions from accused persons. He does not also come to court before 2 P.M., and harasses people by constantly touring about in the mafassal. In order to please his relatives, he disregards the law. The Sub-divisional Officer also purchases Government's landed property in his own name, or gives such property to his relatives. He abuses people freely,

and detains innocent people in *hajut* at his own sweet will and pleasure. We will say nothing here about scandalous acts on his part, which could be easily proved, and which, if they had not been compromised, would have formed the subject of legal proceedings. Although it is very wrong in a Magistrate to convert daughters of respectable families into *bandis*, we will say nothing about it here. We request Government to institute an enquiry into the conduct of the Maulvi, so that interpellations on the subject in the Council may not become necessary.

The Maulvi has made himself all the more unpopular by interfering in elections under the Local Self-Government Act. He has tried his best to prevent the election to the Local Board of a person with whom he is offended. He did not scruple to threaten the voters through the police and other people. The people made a complaint on that subject. Ought not the authorities to have attended to that complaint?

We beseech Sir Alexander Mackenzie to take notice of the conduct of this Maulvi. Let him at least befriend the oppressed and helpless people by transferring the Maulvi from a place which is close to his home, and where he has many relatives, and where many retrials and transfers of cases become necessary on account of the interest and influence to which he is subject. The people of Bengal look up to the Lieutenant-Governor for justice.

There is an impression in the public mind, which should be removed, that Government is unwilling to attend to any complaints against the Maulvi because he ingratiated himself with Sir Charles Elliott by denying the existence of scarcity in Madaripur.

Either on account of defects in our manner of stating things or on account of defects in Government's manner of hearing us, the grievances of the people remain unredressed. We hope that the generous Lieutenant-Governor will take pity upon the oppressed people. It is a duty of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to see that the weak are not oppressed by the strong. We say so because we expect much from him.

8. The same paper has the following:—

The creditors of Mr. Ahsan-ud-din Ahmed.

Mr. Ahsan-ud-din Ahmed ventured to seek the protection of the Insolvency Court simply because he was a special favourite of Sir Charles Elliott.

It is not likely that a Civilian should venture on so bold a step unless countenanced by Government. The people are surprised that Government should deal with the late Nawab Amir Ali's sons in this matter in a way very different from that in which it deals with other people. The creditors of the Nawab's sons are about to be ruined by this difference of treatment.

If the creditors had known that Mr. Ahsan-ud-din Ahmed would not incur the displeasure of Government, even if found to have contracted debts improperly, they would have taken good care not to lend him their money. They thought that Mr. Ahsan-ud-din Ahmed would readily pay off debts which he was improperly contracting, and little suspected that the debts which Mr. Ahmed contracted, after his father's death, either to conduct a law suit or for some other purpose, would be deemed his father's debts.

The creditors should have known that a law that is applicable to sons of fathers who die without debts, is not applicable to sons of fathers who leave debts behind them. They were also probably mistaken in thinking that the laws of the English Government were equally applicable to all. Because they made this mistake they paved the way to their own ruin by lending out their money. A declaration of insolvency in favour of a highly-paid Government officer may be a good joke to others, but to his creditors it is ruin, pure and unalloyed.

On the eve of his retirement Sir Charles Elliott gazetted the transfer of Mr. Ahsan-ud-din Ahmed to the Patna district, the very district in which he has applied for a declaration of insolvency. Here was the climax of favouritism. If a man must be befriended this is indeed the way to befriend.

How Mr. Ahmed's creditors have been perplexed by this transfer will appear from the following memorial:—

"To—The Private Secretary to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

"SIR,

"I have the honour to request that you will be so good as to lay the following for the consideration and orders of His Honour:—

HITAVADI,
Jan. 17th, 1896

Perhaps His Honour is aware that Mr. Ahsan-ud-din Ahmed, a member of the Statutory Civil Service, has applied to the District Judge of Patna to declare himself insolvent. The application was made on the strength of a Resolution recorded on the 9th September 1895 by the former Government directing that the applicant shall not be suspended from service if he passes through the Bankruptcy Court. How far the Government was advised in recording such order, I appeal to His Honour to consider.

"By a notification published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 18th December, 1895, Mr. Ahsan-ud-din Ahmed, who was acting as District Judge of Nadia, has been posted as Joint Magistrate at the headquarters station of the Patna district. Mr. Ahmed has applied to the civil court of this district to declare him insolvent, and it may be possible that his presence in the district would create undue influence over his creditors. It is earnestly prayed that His Honour would be pleased to order the transfer of Mr. Ahmed to some other district in Lower Bengal.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) MIRZA MAHAMED KHALIL,

One of the creditors to the sons of the late Nawab Amir Ali.

150 LOWER CHITPUR ROAD,

The 27th December 1895."

We shall be glad to see the Nawab's sons extricated from their financial difficulties. But no one will approve of Governments' action in making a concession in their favour which is denied to all other debtors. Why should not the pay of high officers under Government be attached by creditors in the same way as the pay of poor clerks is attached? Mr. Ahmed's creditors may fairly ask this question.

HITAVADI.
Jan. 17th, 1896.

9. The same paper finds from the certificates sent by the late Head Clerk of the Judge's Court, Nadia, about whose appointment to the Head Clerkship it wrote in its last issue (see Report on Native Papers for 18th January, 1896, paragraph 10,) that he is a very able man, and has always satisfied the officers under whom he has served. He has now been appointed to a higher post. His appointment cannot therefore be attributed to partiality.

HITAVADI.

10. The same paper says:—Many are surprised to find the names of many ignorant Musalmans in the new list of Assessors in the Mymensingh district, the petition which they made for exemption from service as Assessors having been rejected. The *Charu Mihir* is informed that Government has issued a Circular to all District Magistrates directing them to appoint Musalman Assessors for sessions trials in preference to pleaders and mukhtars, and suspects that the inclusion of the names of so many ignorant Musalmans in the list is due to that Circular. Will the Lieutenant-Governor enquire into the matter?

HITAVADI.

11. The same paper says that the objectionable language in which the Sessions Judge of Dacca has called upon persons nominated as jurors to state their objections to serving in that capacity must be offensive to many. The nominated jurors have been addressed as *tumi*. It is only respectable people who are nominated jurors, and jurors serve Government without any remuneration. It is meet therefore that they should be addressed more respectfully. This discourteous form of address obtains everywhere under Government, and it is time that it was changed.

HITAVADI.

12. A correspondent of the same paper says that the amla of the Munsifs' Courts begin service on a pay of Rs. 20 which rises to Rs. 30 in twenty years by biennial increments of a rupee, while the amla of the Judges' Courts, who begin with the same pay, obtain biennial increments of Rs. 2, and thus attain to a pay of Rs. 40 in the same period. The transfer of an amla from a Munsifi to a

Judge's Court may therefore be regarded as promotion. But such is not the case. Suppose an amla in a Munsif's Court, who is receiving a pay of Rs. 26, after twelve years' service is transferred to a Court Judge's. After two years' service there he fairly expects an increment of Rs. 2, and makes his bill accordingly. But here the Accountant-General interferes, and says that he must be regarded as a new man, and is not therefore entitled to any increment till he shall have attained to a pay of the same amount in his new post by six years' service. But it is not easy to see why the amla's service in the Munsif's Court should not be taken into account in allowing him increment, in the same way as service in another department counts towards pension. This procedure of the Accountant-General is plainly opposed to common sense and equity.

Government derives a large profit from the civil courts, and it is but fair that the amla should participate in these profits. The amla submitted a memorial to Sir Charles Elliott, stating that an initial pay of Rs. 20 was no longer sufficient for them, and praying that that pay might be raised to Rs. 30 or Rs. 40. In reply to this memorial Government stated that the amla should in future begin service on a pay of Rs. 25, but would be allowed no increment. But no favour was shown to the memorialists themselves. Sir Alexander Mackenzie is now the Lieutenant-Governor, and it is hoped that he will attend to the grievances of the amla.

13. The *Sanjivani* of the 18th January corrects a mistake committed by it some time ago, in making the announcement that the Government had privately inquired into the charges preferred against Mr. Warde-Jones, Subdivisional Officer of Govindpur, and had confirmed him in the post of a third grade Deputy Magistrate. The fact is that Mr. Norman Warde-Jones of Govindpur, still remains suspended. It is Mr. Warde-Jones, of Hazaribagh, that has been rewarded with promotion. Mr. Norman Warde-Jones, was suspended in August last, and it is strange that the Government should be procrastinating for six months in making an inquiry into the charges preferred against him. The public, however, sincerely hope that the Lieutenant-Governor and his conscientious Chief Secretary will not fail to do justice in the matter.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 18th, 1896.

14. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 19th January observes that a native constable came some time ago to some of the pleaders and mukhtars of the Dacca bar and asked them to draw up a plaint to the following effect:—Mr. G. L. Garth had been playing at "*patti*" with Mr. Faulder, the District Magistrate, and a few other Europeans. He was standing near the place where the play was going on, and was asked by Mr. Garth to catch a ball which flew past him. Being not very expert in such business he took some time to catch the ball, which so much enraged Mr. Garth that he gave him a sound thrashing, while his companions looked listlessly on. He complained to the Police Superintendent and afterwards to the Magistrate against Mr. Garth, but he was not heard. The constable wished to call the Magistrate and the Police Superintendent as witnesses for the prosecution. He was, however, advised by the pleaders and mukhtars to give up his intention of prosecuting a European, as under the English rule no European was likely to be punished for his offence. Even if in this case the European offender was convicted he would be fined only two or three rupees, while the complainant would incur the displeasure of his European superiors and lose his appointment. It might also happen that while the accused would be acquitted, the complainant would be prosecuted and convicted under section 211 of the Indian Penal Code. The constable acted according to the advice of the pleaders and mukhtars.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Jan. 19th, 1896.

(d)—Education.

15. The *Hublul Mateen* of the 15th January says that the Muhammadans, who are backward in point of education, are now trying hard to improve themselves. Out of the 1,00,000, students who received education in Bengal last year 36,068 were Muhammadans. This educational progress among Muhammadans, it would seem, is going on throughout India. It shows that the

HUBLUL MATEEN,
Jan. 15th, 1896.

Muhammadans in Bengal are gradually improving, and if they continue to do so for another ten years, they will become the equals of the Hindus.

VIKRAMPUR,
Jan. 16th, 1896.

16. The *Vikrampur* of the 16th January says that in the name of spreading mass-education, Government is not only

Education of Hindu girls. wasting a large sum of money every year, but is laying the axe at the root of the true education of the people. If mass-education has not already made its evil consequences felt, it will do so before long. And the consequences will be worse if primary education in its present form spreads not only among boys but among Hindu girls also. Hindu girls, like the girls of all other countries, ought undoubtedly to receive intellectual training; but their education should be of a completely different nature from that which is imparted to Hindu boys, and they should be taught not in schools but by their parents and brothers at home. Even their husbands will not make good teachers for them in the earlier years of their married life, for they will be likely to make them vain and prudish. The object of the education of girls should be to cultivate their mental faculties to a certain extent, and to equip them with such knowledge as will enable them to superintend the mental training of their children in their early years, and to discharge other domestic duties efficiently. Religion should also take a prominent place in their education.

SULABH DAINIK,
Jan. 17th, 1896.

17. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 17th January is not sorry that Babu Haraprasad Sastri's History of India in English has been appointed a text-book for the Entrance Examination. Portions of the book are well-written and interesting reading. It is hoped that the Syndicate, which tried its best to get the Sastri's book appointed, should show the same kindness to other authors and writers of text-books. The Calcutta University has monopolised the publication of text-books in Sanskrit for its Entrance Examination. It should give up this monopoly, and keep the selection of text-books on all subjects open to competition.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 18th, 1895.

18. The Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, observes the *Sanjivani* of the 18th January, has, on the recommendation of Dr. Bomford, Principal, Medical College, forbidden the Professors of that institution to attend to calls from the mafassal. It is true that the absence of a Professor from the College, even for a short time, is detrimental to its interests; but it is at the same time true that many lives in the mafassal are saved by the skilful treatment of doctors like the Professors of the Medical College; and in passing the order under notice, the Director of Public Instruction ought to have taken this fact into consideration.

SANJIVANI.

19. The same paper complains that the morality of the students of Bankipore is in a lamentable condition. The Musalman students are the most obnoxious in this respect, while the Bengali and Madras students are in no way much better. They are addicted to drinking and many other worse vices. In Bankipore public prostitutes shamelessly carry on their trade in the quarter in which the schools and colleges are situated, and they do not fail to make use of all their arts to ensnare young students, whose character has not yet been formed, and who live away from their guardians and the chastening influence of home. If the teachers and professors of the schools and colleges in Bankipore try to regulate the conduct of the students, they will not only save their souls from moral ruin, but will raise the percentage of the successful candidates who go up for the University examinations.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 20th, 1896.

20. Sir Alfred Croft, observes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 20th January, has had to do many things wrong in obedience to his master, Sir Charles Elliott. At first

Sir Alfred and Sir Charles did not agree. But how long can a Director of Public Instruction quarrel with a Lieutenant-Governor? Sir Alfred Croft was obliged to go home on furlough. During his absence Dr. Martin officiated as the Director of Public Instruction, and faithfully carried out the behests of his master. To please the Lieutenant-Governor, he introduced many innovations in the Education Department. When Sir Alfred Croft returned—he could not afford to resign his post—he took a long time to set matters

right, and undo many things which Dr. Martin had done. Sir Alfred Croft would not have had to do anything blameworthy if he had not had to serve under a Lieutenant-Governor like Sir Charles Elliott. It is expected that, with Sir Alexander Mackenzie for his master, Sir Alfred Croft will be able to give the public every satisfaction. He is a good man himself. But he had to serve a wilful master, and in obedience to him he had to do many wrong things much against his will.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

21. The *Rangpur Dik Prakash* of the 16th January complains that the owners of ferry boats plying on the Trisrota, in the Rangpur district, oppress and ill-treat passengers.

Ferry oppression in Rangpur.

The authorities lease out the ferries to the highest bidders, and do not pay the least attention to the convenience of the public. The ferrymen extort exorbitant fees from passengers. The ferrymen of the Ghoramara *ghat*, for instance, have no fixed scale of rates, and extort whatever they can from those who happen to use their boats. They have been known to extort nine and even twelve annas from a cartman for ferrying a cart, while in some cases they have been satisfied with six annas. If the passengers complain to the authorities against the ferrymen, they are referred to the District Magistrate. They do not, however, like to take the trouble of representing their grievances to the District Magistrate for the sake of a paltry sum of money, and so their grievances remain unredressed. It is to be expected that the attention of the District Magistrate will be drawn to the matter.

RANGPUR
DIK PRAKASH.
Jan. 16th, 1896.

22. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 18th January complains that Mr. Fazl Karim, Sub-divisional Officer of Madaripur, in the Faridpur district, did not properly record votes on the occasion of the Local Board election in the Palang thana of the sub-division in his charge. The Palang thana contains not less than 2,400 voters, of whom as many as 600 were present on the occasion of the election which came off on the 4th December last. At least 240 votes ought to have been recorded under the provisions of the Local Self-Government Act. But Mr. Fazal Karim did not record even this required number of votes. He began recording the votes very late, and finished recording them very early. He came to the election booth as late as 2 P.M., spent a portion of his time in making a speech on the merits of vaccination, and the sanction given to it in Musalman scriptures. Then in less than four hours he not only finished the recording of votes, but also filled up the voting forms. The voters were assembled in an open compound at a little distance from the place of election. Their names were not called out sufficiently aloud, and the votes of those who were a little late in coming were not recorded. The Sub-divisional Officer also abused and ill-treated the voters, so much so that many respectable voters, who would not put up with the insult, left the place in disgust without having their votes recorded. On the 15th December last a protest meeting was held at Palang, presided over by Babu Pratap Chandra Sen, zamindar and Honorary Magistrate of the place. A petition has been submitted to the Lieutenant-Governor praying for a re-election, and it is to be hoped that the prayer will be granted.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 18th, 1896.

23. The *Darsak* of the 19th January has the following:—

Cause of failure of Local Self-Government in Bengal.

We are generally in the habit of looking upon the officials as the greatest enemy of Local Self-Government. But the fact is that we ourselves often do our utmost to inflict the greatest injury on that institution. It is true that there are among us many who act disinterestedly for the furtherance of the cause of Local Self-Government in this country, and it is through their exertion and their exertion alone that the system is gradually gaining ground in the country. The number of such patriotic men, however, is few, while large, very large, indeed, is the number of those who use the system as an instrument for accomplishing selfish ends—as a stepping stone, so to speak, to pelf and power.

A few instances will suffice to prove our statement. It is a standing complaint in the official reports that the affairs of the municipalities are sadly

DARSAK,
Jan. 19th, 1896.

mismanaged; that the municipalities do not keep accounts or collect taxes properly, and that in many of them the municipal revenue is not properly and judiciously spent. Exaggerated as it is, this complaint is not altogether without a foundation. Municipal affairs are in many places undoubtedly mismanaged, and this mismanagement is principally due to the apathy and, in some cases, to the incapacity of the Municipal Commissioners, who do not show half as much zeal and enthusiasm in transacting municipal business as they show in getting themselves elected. As soon as they are elected, the Municipal Commissioners cease to have any connection either with the rate-payers or with the municipalities. Most of them do not even regularly attend the municipal meetings, and few take any interest in the management of municipal affairs. Nothing better can be expected from men who get themselves elected as Municipal Commissioners either out of spite or from selfish motives. Some of these men get themselves elected as Commissioners simply with a view to become Chairman or Vice-Chairman in future. With some it is a settled policy to object to, and protest against, any thing and every thing that the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman does. There are very few who have the good of the rate-payers at heart. The consequence is that the affairs of the municipalities are transacted chiefly by the Chairmen and the Vice-Chairmen, and whatever they like to do is done. The Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of municipalities thus come to monopolise all influence and power which they do not infrequently misuse. For all these, the Municipal Commissioners themselves are responsible. Many of them are heard to complain of the conduct of the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen, but they forget that the latter owe their existence, so to speak, to their votes. The Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen are in a sense the creation of the Municipal Commissioners, and they can never usurp all the influence and power in the municipalities if the Commissioners become mindful of their duties, and take part in the municipal proceedings with a whole heart.

The apathy of the Municipal Commissioners is responsible for another serious evil. Self-Government ceases to be Self-Government if all the power and influence it represents are centred in a few hands, and if it ceases to be self-government, it loses all its value as an institution for the political education of the people.

The remedy for this evil lies in the hands of the rate-payers. The Municipal Commissioners owe their existence to their votes, and they can, if so minded, exercise their control upon them. The defects in our municipal administration can be easily removed if the rate-payers make up their mind to give their votes only to such men as would be likely to take an active part in municipal work, and to punish peccant Municipal Commissioners by declining to give them their votes if they seek re-election.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

SAHACHAR,
Jan. 15th, 1896.

24. A correspondent of the *Sahachar* of the 15th January draws attention to the necessity of a good road between Tarakeswar and Mayapur, in the Hooghly district. There is no road from Tarakeswar to Harinkhola, and the road which formerly existed between the latter place and Mayapur has almost completely disappeared. The whole distance between Tarakeswar and Mayapur is only about ten miles, but it takes one full eight hours to pass it. Is this the return the people get for the road cess they pay?

The people of the villages between Tarakeswar and Pursura were rejoiced to hear that the Hooghly District Board had, in their budget for the year 1893-94, provided for the construction of a road between the villages named, but the Divisional Commissioner did not sanction the project, and required the Board to spend the money on the repair of the Burdwan-Jahanabad road. Was not the Hooghly District Board rich enough to construct the Tarakeswar-Pursura road as well as repair the Burdwan-Jahanabad road?

The District Board also takes no notice of Ahalya Bai's road. The correspondent will at present draw attention to only that portion of it which lies between Mayapur and Sodpur, a distance of only three or four miles. Portions of this important road have been swept away by floods for want of good culverts across it, and the remaining portions are never repaired beyond getting a few basketfuls of earth from time to time.

25. The *Vikrampur* of the 16th January complains of inconveniences which passengers suffer on the Goalundo steamer since the service was made over to the India General Steam Navigation Company by Government. Serious irregularities also occur in the delivery of the mails. On most days of the week the mail bag is not received in due time. It is hoped that the new Lieutenant-Governor will enquire into the complaints, as all other endeavours to draw the attention of the authorities to the matter have failed.

VIKRAMPUR,
Jan. 16th, 1896.

26. The *Hitavadi* of the 17th January has received many complaints regarding the difficulty in procuring third class tickets for the Khulna mail train, which leaves the Sealdah station at 9-30 P.M. The place where tickets are issued becomes so crowded that it is extremely difficult to make one's way into it. As for the booking of goods, it is almost a hopeless task. This inconvenience may be removed by arranging for the issue of tickets at all hours of the day as at the Howrah Station. People say that they could have expected a better arrangement if the railway had not been under Government management.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 17th, 1896.

27. A correspondent writes to the same paper:—On the 5th January last, at 10-30 P.M., I got into the down train at Bankipur in order to come to Hooghly. On the following day the train reached Assensole at 1 P.M. Here the Eurasian ticket collectors of the station compelled many third class passengers to alight in order to make room for coolies on their way to Assam. One or two men, who were going to protest, were vilely abused. They asked me also to alight, but I refused to do so until they should be able to show under what rule they could require me to come out. They therefore left me alone, but forced fifteen coolies and one cooly-recruiter into the compartment. The inconvenience of travelling in a compartment containing seventeen persons may well be imagined. More than ten passengers are never allowed into those third class compartments in which Europeans travel. Will Government never attend to the inconvenience of the third class native passengers?

HITAVADI.

The Editor requests the railway authorities to enquire into this matter.

28. The *Saraswat Patra* of the 18th January says that when the Goalundo-Narainganj steamer service was under the Government's own management, the comfort and convenience of passengers were looked after in a manner which has become unknown since the management has been transferred to the India General Steam Navigation Company. Under Government management there was separate accommodation for female passengers of both the second and intermediate classes. Since the taking over of the management by the Company, however, intermediate class female passengers have been made to sit on deck, a small space being insufficiently screened for them. There is also no privy accommodation for intermediate class female passengers. The Press and the Manager of the Eastern Bengal State Railway have repeatedly urged the Company to pay more attention to the needs of intermediate class passengers but in vain. It is true the Company is now running Merlin Steamers between Goalundo and Narainganj with a view to remove the grievances of passengers, but these steamers do not touch at the intermediate stations, passengers from which have therefore to travel by the Sylhet and Cachar Steamers, which labour under the same disabilities as the Goalundo-Narainganj Steamers. The greatest inconvenience of passengers in these steamers is that they carry loads of fish, the smell of which proves sickening to the passengers.

SARASWAT PATRA,
Jan. 18th, 1896.

It has become absolutely necessary that the Government should either compel the Company to remove these grievances or again take over the management in its own hand, as it has the power to do under a clause in its agreement with the Company.

(h)—General.

29. The *Sahachar* of the 15th January has the following:—

Official tours.

The object of official tours is good, but they fail to secure the desired result, because the touring

SAHACHAR,
Jan. 15th, 1896.

officials do not carefully enquire into the condition of the people. Sir Antony MacDonnell has set a noble example in this respect. He made a minute enquiry into the people's condition in every place which he visited in the course of his recent tour. There can be little doubt that Sir Alexander Mackenzie will, by trying his best to remove the grievances of the people, soon acquire in Bengal as much popularity as Sir Antony has gained in the North-Western Provinces, and the people of Bengal will have little cause for complaint if the administrative officers throughout the Province follow the example of their Chief.

The only objection against frequent touring by Magistrates and Deputy Magistrates is that they cause much trouble and loss of money to the parties to the cases which are disposed of in the course of tours. But Sir Steuart Bayley made an effectual provision against such harm, by requiring touring Magisterial officers to take up in the course of their tours only such cases as came from the places visited. It is because Sir Charles Elliott allowed a departure from or a violation of this rule that tours caused so much trouble and inconvenience to parties to criminal cases. It is hoped that Sir Alexander Mackenzie, acquainted as he is with the life and habits of the people, will remove this inconvenience, by requiring all Magistrates and Deputy Magistrates to strictly follow the practice which Sir Steuart Bayley prescribed for the disposal of cases during tours.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 17th, 1896.

30. The *Hitavadi* of the 17th January says:—The *Statesman* is credibly informed that the repeal of the cotton duties has been determined upon. The *Statesman's* information may not be correct, but it is certain that those duties are doomed. Manchester is frowning sternly upon Government, and the latter will have to yield to it sooner or later. There can be no objection to the repeal of those duties if the deficit which will be caused thereby is made up by the stopping of the exchange compensation allowance. But such self-sacrifice is not to be expected from the authorities. There can be no doubt therefore that the oppressed millions of India will be still more oppressed.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Jan. 18th, 1896.

31. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 18th January says that those who have been already appointed as sub-registrars, as well as those who are candidates for sub-registrarships, must be very well acquainted with Babu Panchanan Datta, late Head Assistant in the Office of the Inspector-General of Registration. The writer frequently heard complaints against the Babu. And now Sir Alexander Mackenzie has dismissed him without even giving him a pension after his long service. It is true Panchanan Babu has made himself rich enough not to stand in need of a pension, but Government ought to have granted him one in recognition of the length of his service.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,
First and Second fortnights of Paus, 1302 B.S.

32. The *Tripura Prakash* for the first and second fortnights of Paus has the following:—
The Commissioner of the Chittagong Division in his last Annual Administration Report doubts if the *Tripura Prakash* newspaper could maintain its existence without a supply of sensation, and observes that "its account of the collision between Mr. Beatson-Bell and Babu Rasik Lal Sen was distorted and was corrected by other Indian papers." But how could Mr. Oldham, who was sitting at Chittagong at the time, call the *Tripura Prakash's* account a distorted one, when its writer was present on the spot and witnessed the occurrence with his own eyes? Babu Rasik Lal himself might, from a fear of losing his appointment, give a wrong account of the incident, but what motive could the writer in this paper possibly have for publishing a distorted account of it? No other Indian paper had any right to contradict the *Tripura Prakash* in this matter, because no other writer was an eye-witness of the occurrence. The testimony of one or two persons who had an evident interest in giving a distorted account of the affair is certainly worthless, compared with the evidence of the majority of the people who were present on the spot, and whose examination was demanded by the writer.

The writer would have been obliged to Mr. Oldham if he had assigned any reason for the malice against the State of Hill Tippera and its ruler which he has attributed to the *Tripura Prakash*. Mr. Oldham is a high official, and the *Tripura Prakash* is a poor little paper which must bear in silence whatever

it pleases the Divisional Commissioner to say about it. But if the Commissioner can mention a single reason why the *Tripura Prakash* should bear malice against Hill Tippera, the writer will retract every word he has written. The Commissioner says that the *Tripura Prakash's* articles on Hill Tippera "contained nothing which could be of use to the Political Agent or to the Commissioner." How could Mr. Oldham say this in the face of the fact that cliques of interested men have brought the State to the verge of ruin, and when oppressed people in multitudes are submitting petitions to the Commissioner and the Political Agent? Do the Commissioner and the Political Agent really find nothing amiss in the administration of Hill Tippera? And how can the Commissioner's statement in question be believed when suggestions on various subjects have been conveyed to the Maharaja since the appearance of the articles in this paper, and when one Political Agent after another has reported jobberies perpetrated by the official cliques in the State? The *Tripura Prakash* said nothing new. While only one side of the picture was being shown to the public, it showed them both sides of it. If there was no mismanagement in the State, why did the Government inflict on the old Maharaja the indignity of coming up to Comilla to pay visits to the Commissioner? Is the *Tripura Prakash* blamed because it tells things plainly? The opinion of a high official like a Divisional Commissioner may injure an insignificant paper like the *Tripura Prakash*, but can even Mr. Oldham suppress public opinion? The *Tripura Prakash* may be put to death, but a hundred other newspapers will spring up from its ashes to give expression to public opinion. Public opinion has been known to subvert kingdoms, and no earthly power has ever succeeded in putting it down. If the *Tripura Prakash* publishes falsehoods, its days will soon be numbered; but it tells only the truth. Let any official, however high his position, make any reflections he likes against it, it will suffer no harm or injury. Its statements may be trifled with to-day or ascribed to spite, but the day must come when it will be admitted to have given the soundest advice. Such a thing has happened more than once in the world's history. The mouth of the *Tripura Prakash* may be stopped, but the truth it wanted to say will come out of a thousand other mouths some day.

33. The same paper says that Mr. Ward's recent visit to Chittagong has filled the people of the Division with alarm. The Tippera Hitasadhini Sabha has already submitted a petition to Government requesting it not to effect

The proposed transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam.

the proposed amalgamation of Chittagong with Assam without listening to the objections of the people. On the 5th January last a public meeting was held in the Comilla Town Hall for the purpose of adopting a memorial to Government protesting against the proposed amalgamation. It is hoped that the enlightened British Government, which does not even convict a criminal without hearing him, will afford the people of the Chittagong Division an opportunity of representing their case to it. Sir Alexander Mackenzie is now the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and for what fault will he make over to the Assam Administration his subjects in Chittagong, when he does not feel his dignity lost by keeping under his rule even Uriya and Sonthal? The people of Chittagong are looking up to His Honour for protection, and it is hoped he will not disappoint them.

34. The same paper publishes the following English article:—

"From light to darkness.

The proposed transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam.

"Surely we live in strange times. Progress is the order of the day. But in our case the engine of Government is about to be reversed, and instead of a forward motion we are about to have a move backward. The Chittagong Division which, since the establishment of the British rule, has always been a part of the Bengal Government, is threatened with a transfer to the non-regulation Province of Assam.

"We understand the proposal emanated from our late Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Charles Elliott, who, while the Chief Commissioner of Assam, not satisfied with his little *satrapy*, cast a longing look upon the neighbouring districts, and sighed how small was his kingdom! The idea that germinated there budded forth the moment he was elevated to the Bengal *guddy*.

TRIPURA PRAKASH.
First and second fortnights of Paus, 1302
B.S.

TRIPURA PRAKASH.

"It may be in the recollection of our readers that while Sir Charles paid his first visit to this town as Lieutenant-Governor, the Municipal Commissioners mentioned this subject in their municipal address, and expressed the alarm and anxiety which the proposal had caused. But beyond a vague and evasive reply, they were unable to draw him into a more definite statement of the reasons which had led to the proposal being made. Subsequently the representative of the Chittagong Division, at the Bengal Legislative Council, put interpellations in the Council, but beyond the statement that the subject was under the consideration of the India Government, nothing further could be elicited. A motion was made for production of the papers on the subject, but it met with no better fate.

"However, the matter was shelved for some time and the people were lulled into repose by a report that after the construction of the A. B. Railway, only the Chittagong Hill Tracts will be transferred. Nothing was heard on the subject till the Chief Commissioner of Assam, Mr. Ward, passed in December last, by this district to Calcutta and thence to Chittagong and back again, when the old report was revived that the Chief Commissioner's movements to and fro were connected with the scheme for transfer of this Division to Assam; and the evil which was so long put off was beginning to take a practical shape. This news spread like wildfire throughout the Division, and a feeling of alarm and uneasiness was the consequence. Maulvi Siraj-ul-Islam, Khan Bahadur, President of the Tippera Hitasadhini Sabha, no sooner he heard of the report, at once telegraphed to the Bengal and India Government praying for suspension of final decision till representations of the people of this Division were heard. A meeting of the said Association was immediately held, and it was resolved to send up memorials to the Bengal and India Government. The subject attracted the attention of the public press, and it has been taken up in the columns of some of the daily papers of Calcutta. Since then, meetings have been held in various centres of this Division, and resolutions passed to memorialise the Government. It is needless to say that the public mind has been much agitated, and that great excitement prevails.

"We are in a position to state that the question has been taken up by some of our public men, and it will form the subject of an interpellation in the next meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council. Some of the public Associations in Calcutta have promised their support and co-operation. So that we are not without hopes that this unjust and retrograde measure may yet be stopped, and the threatened evil averted. We would urge upon our countrymen of this Division—Hindus and Muhammadans,—to shake off their lethargy, and make a joint and united effort and try by all constitutional means in their power to prevent this retrograde policy being carried into effect. It was their duty to have moved in this matter long before, but it is never too late to mend. Let them agitate incessantly, and let their voice be heard. If they fail here, they have the British Parliament and the British nation to appeal to. Now that Sir Alexander Mackenzie is at the head of the Bengal Government, we may yet hope that he will bring to bear upon the subject an unbiassed and unprejudiced judgment, and that he will not allow his subjects of such a large and important Division to be transferred to a non-regulation Province, after they had lived under the Bengal Government since its establishment, and enjoyed rights and privileges which are about to be swept away.

"We object to the very principle on which such a serious step is being taken. It was certainly the duty of the Government to have taken the public into its confidence; but far from taking that open and fair course, the people, in spite of their repeated demands, have been left in the dark. It is a well-recognized principle that no person is to be judged and condemned behind his back, without giving him a hearing. Here the whole population of a large and important Division is about to be transferred to a more backward Province—a Regulation Province to a Non-Regulation one—and their rights and privileges to be interfered with, for no fault of theirs, and yet they are not told the reasons why such a revolutionary change has become necessary, and a hearing is not vouchsafed unto them. We have no time to-day to enter into the reasons why we view this proposal with so much dread and horror. We propose to revert to it in our next."

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

35. The *Sanjivani* of the 18th January observes that the legislative mill is not likely to work so fast during the rule of Sir Alexander Mackenzie as it did during the rule of his predecessor. Under Sir Charles Elliott people lived in perpetual fear of the passing of revolutionary measures. But the new Lieutenant-Governor seems to be bent on giving them peace, and it is likely that no new measure will be submitted to the Legislative Council for some time to come. Consequently the Council is not going to sit very soon. The Government, however, will do well to hold weekly meetings of the Council, during the winter session, so that the Members may have the opportunity of exercising their right of interpellation.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 18th, 1896.

36. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 20th January has the following:—

The Civil Procedure Code
Amendment Bill.

Section 2 of the Civil Procedure Code Amendment Bill proposes to amend the 1st paragraph of section 195 of the existing Act. In *ex parte* cases, under the existing law, the deposition of a witness is necessary to prove the claim of the plaintiff. But under the provisions of the Bill, the deposition of a witness may, in such cases, be dispensed with, and evidence by affidavit may be held sufficient for the purpose. Those who have any *mafassal* experience are aware that more than half the number of civil cases are *ex parte*; ninety *per cent.* of rent suits, for instance, being of that kind. In such cases trial of suits will be expedited, and court business greatly reduced and simplified if evidence by affidavit be held sufficient for the purpose; and trial of cases will be much more simplified, and the cost of litigation greatly reduced if the rural sub-registrars be authorized to take affidavits. There are sub-registrars in almost all important villages, and people will be saved much trouble and expense if they are allowed to make affidavits before them.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 20th, 1896.

Section 3 of the Bill proposes to amend section 235 of the existing Act. It is the object of this section to authorise the court to order simultaneously the attachment and sale of the property of the judgment-debtor. Under the provisions of the existing Act the sale of a property does not take place before two or three months after its attachment. This gives the judgment-debtor an opportunity to pay off his dues without selling his property, or by disposing of it on more favourable terms than are possible in the case of a public auction. It is true that in rent suits the court orders attachment and sale simultaneously. But it will tell heavily upon the judgment-debtor if this provision is enforced in all civil cases, and the provisions of the rent law are made applicable to all civil suits. Moreover, this section will do great injustice to those who may prefer a claim to attached property, and may demand an investigation under section 278 of the existing Act. Such investigation and the staying of the sale in his favour will be practically impossible under the proposed section. Attachment will be closely followed by sale, and claimants will hardly have time to acquaint themselves with all the facts and defend their claims in court.

Section 4 of the Bill proposes to amend section 289 of the existing Act. It proposes to introduce a change in the manner of making a proclamation about attachment or sale. Under the existing law, proclamation is made at some place on or adjacent to the property. The Bill proposes proclamation by service on the judgment-debtor himself with the court's order. In our opinion, both the modes should be adopted. Either of them by itself will cause inconvenience to judgment-debtors. But the two together will remove all cause for complaint. Under the present mode, the judgment-debtor, who may happen to live at a distance from the place where the property attached is situated, may not always be apprised of the fact that his property has been attached. The Bill will remove this difficulty but will cause a new one. If the property which is attached be at a great distance from the place where the judgment-debtor resides, the people of the place where the property is situated will not know that it is going to be sold, and the property will therefore sell at a low price for want of purchasers.

Section 4 of the Bill also provides for the advertising of sales in the official Gazette, if the value of the property be one hundred rupees and upwards. Such

a provision is no doubt desirable, and is sanctioned by the practice which is followed by the courts in certain cases.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 18th, 1896.

37. The *Sanjivani* of the 18th January writes as follows:—

Jeypur Jails.

Jail administration in Jeypur is in a mournful state. There are two jails in Jeypur town, the central and the district jail, in which are confined no less than seventeen hundred prisoners. These jails are in the charge of one Mr. Williams, a Eurasian, who had been formerly a private in the European regiment of the Maharaja of Jeypur, and was made the Superintendent of the Jeypur jails through the influence of Raja Ram Singh. The jails have been in his charge for the last twenty years, and during this time he has treated their inmates with great cruelty. In 1880 the prisoners formed a conspiracy against the jailor, Nandan Singh, and cut off his nose. This, however, had no effect upon the jail authorities, and they went on ill-treating the inmates of the jail with a vengeance. In 1886 the prisoners, almost goaded to desperation, submitted a petition to the Resident, representing their grievances, and praying for their redress. Their prayer, however, was not listened to, and the jail authorities became more and more emboldened, and the oppression of the prisoners went on increasing. At last matters reached a crisis, and in 1895 the prisoners submitted a petition to the Governor-General's Agent in Rajputana. A Commission was appointed to inquire into the charges preferred against the jail authorities, and it was disclosed that these charges were all true, and that the jail authorities had been carrying things with a high land. It was proved that the Superintendent was in the habit of whipping the prisoners very cruelly whenever he became offended with them; that the jail authorities used to take bribes from the inmates of the jail, and that a large portion of the daily supply of food for the prisoners was misappropriated while they were kept half starved. The oppression of the prisoners had reached its climax, and two prisoners, it was proved, had committed suicide in order to escape the oppression. It is therefore a matter of congratulation that some of the oppressive jail officers have been dismissed. This, it is to be expected, will have a salutary effect upon the Jeypur jail authorities, and that complaints against them will no longer be heard.

SANJIVANI.

38. The same paper observes that the tributary Native States in India

Native States and Political Agents.

are by no means in an enviable condition. The Native Chiefs have always to try their best to keep the Political Agents in humour, and woe unto them if they incur their displeasure. Very recently the Chief of a certain Native State failed to carry out the order of the Political Agent, and the latter, in order to overawe him, had regiments of soldiers brought into the State. Complete subjection is better than such mock independence. An official of rank in the service of an important Tributary Native State once said to the writer that the condition of a Native Chief was more pitiable than that of a cooly. The latter had some independence, the former none.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

ALPUNCH,
Dec. 26th, 1895.

39. *Al Punch* of the 26th December, 1895, is sorry that Lord Elgin refused to accept the address of the Mahajan Sabha of Madras simply because it demanded the removal of certain grievances, and was not full of flattering words.

Lord Elgin and the address of the Mahajan Sabha.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Jan. 16th, 1896.

40. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 16th January says that the defeat of Maulvi Badruddin Haider, who is an old and hard-working Municipal Commissioner, in the contest for the Vice-Chairmanship of the Calcutta Municipality, is due to race feeling on the part of the Hindus. The argument of Mr. Apcar that as most of the employés in the Calcutta Municipal Office are Hindus, a Hindu should be placed in authority over them, is worthless. If this

Defeat of the Musalman candidate for the Vice-Chairmanship.

argument is good for anything, how is it that Europeans are appointed supervising officers in Government offices, and English Governors are appointed to rule over the natives of this country?

41. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 16th January observes that a rumour is afloat that Sir Alexander Mackenzie had recently to go through an official file when he came across something cited on the authority of Sir Charles Elliott. Upon this His Honour wrote upon the file that he was not going to be led by the authority of any person, and wanted that what he said should be done. Sir Alexander Mackenzie will no doubt be able to govern the people well if he keeps up this spirit of independence to the last day of his rule.

SULABH DAINIK,
Jan. 16th, 1896.

42. The *Hitavadi* of the 17th January has the following:—

Oppression in connection with
coolie-recruiting in Calcutta.

Here is an account of oppression in connection with coolie-recruiting in Calcutta, which will probably have for many all the strangeness of a romance.

A local correspondent informs us that on the 13th instant three women of Bhawanipur went out to bathe in the river with two girls in a carriage. On the way a coolie-recruiter entered into a collusion with the driver, who was now driving them to a coolie dépôt. The women were loudly crying all the way for help, but without any effect. When the carriage came before the Church near the Calcutta Madrasa, the loud cries of the women attracted the notice of two persons who ran with the carriage. The driver now drove fast and furiously, but the two men succeeded in overtaking him. On being asked the reason for crying in this way, the women said that the driver was taking them they knew not where, and appealed for help. The coolie-recruiter now attempted to escape. But the police soon came and took the carriage with the women, the driver and the coolie-recruiter to the Taltolla thana. The correspondent does not know what happened afterwards.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 17th, 1896.

43. The same paper says that there are many mysteries in connection with the sudden suspension of Babu Binodbihari Ghosal, House-Surgeon of the Calcutta Medical College Hospital, at the instance of Dr. Charles. The writer will disclose these mysteries in time after enquiry.

HITAVADI

44. The last sitting of the National Congress at Poona has led the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 18th January to ask what the Musalman community of Bengal is doing for their national advancement. Though one people in religion, want of unity among them is compelling every individual to pass his life in idleness and inaction. It is true the Musalmans have been for a long time very poor, and have been left behind in the race for intellectual progress, but should they not endeavour to improve their condition? The other day Lord Elgin gave the Musalmans plainly to understand, so plainly, indeed, that it was painful to hear him—that Government would in no matter show them any special favour. The Musalmans have therefore now no alternative but to gird up their loins and try to rival the Hindus in educational attainments, and demand entrance into the Government service as a matter, not of favour, but of right.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Jan. 18th, 1896.

It is a matter of regret that the Musalman zamindars of Bengal are wasting their lives in the enjoyment of ease, and do not seem to care at all for the improvement of their own people. See what that one man, Sir Syed Ahmed, alone is doing in the North-Western Provinces for the amelioration of the condition of his co-religionists in his own Province. If there is not one man like him in Bengal to take the lead among the Bengal Musalmans, let all the well-to-do Musalmans of the Province combine and raise a fund to be carefully expended on whatever will lead to the benefit of the Muhammadan community. Flattery and asking of favours are making the Musalmans objects of derision in the eyes of their enemies and hateful in the eye of Government. It is high time that, however degraded and degenerated, they did their best to educate themselves and demand privileges from Government as a matter of right. The struggles of the leaders of the Hindu community to secure greater rights and privileges for their own community should open the eyes of the leaders of the Musalman community.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA,
Jan. 19th, 1896.

45. A Brindaban correspondent of the *Ohinsura Vartavaha* of the 19th January observes that the Zanana Missionaries at that place abducted a Hindu lady belonging to a high and respectable family. She was found out after a long search. Who will be to blame if such conduct on the part of Christian Missionaries at a place of Hindu pilgrimage lead to disturbances of the public peace? Christian Missionaries are certainly acting as the greatest enemy of the English Government.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 25th January 1896.